

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01000 190943Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /107 W
-----035876 200500Z /10

R 181453Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7307
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1000

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA, SG
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: POSSIBLE SENEGALESE MISSION

REF: DAKAR 3679,

1. WE ARE INTRIGUED BY THE IDEA OF SENGHOR SENDING A FACT-FINDING MISSION TO NAMIBIA IN THE CONTEXT OF SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN INITIATIVE. IT STRIKES US SUCH A VISIT AT THIS JUNCTURE COULD BE HELPFUL.

2. GIVEN SOUTH AFRICAN INTEREST IN TIES WITH BLACK AFRICA
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(AND GIVEN IN PARTICULAR THE CONTACT SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE PERIODICALLY HAD WITH SENEGAL), IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SAG TO OPPOSE SUCH A VISIT, THERE IS A FAIR CHANCE THE SAG WOULD WELCOME IT.

3. SWAPO WOULD PRESUMABLY BE DISPLEASED AND MIGHT ATTEMPT TO RALLY SOME OF SENGHOR'S AFRICAN COLLEAGUES TO PERSUADE

HIM TO FOREGO SENDING A MISSION.

4. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE ESSENTIAL TO ASSURE THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE MISSION BEING ENTIRELY A SENEGALESE INITIATIVE. AND IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE FREELY AND NOT APPEAR TO BE UNDER THE SOUTH AFRICAN WING.

5. A SENEGALESE MISSION COULD BE HELPFUL IN GETTING THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO PUT THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD AND TO AVOID FALSE STEPS. MOREOVER, IT WOULD INDICATE TO SWAPO THAT THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT AFRICAN OPINION IN FAVOR OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND ITS EARLY IMPLEMENTATION. IT MIGHT HAVE A USEFUL EFFECT ON OTHER AFRICANS AS WELL.

6. AMBASSADOR COHEN IS IN THE BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE HOW WELL SENEGALESE MISSION MIGHT SERVE THESE ENDS, BUT WE SUGGEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ENCOURAGING THE IDEA.
NELSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOODWILL VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET01000
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780212-0604
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780546/aaaabmsx.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cad2309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DAKAR 3679
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2655070
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: POSSIBLE SENEGALESE MISSION
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA, SG
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cad2309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014